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WRITES TO WIFE; THEN ENDS LIFE

Suicide of W. A. Fries, Prominent Contractor, Attributed to Ill Health.

CHURCH NEARS COMPLETION

Easter Services to Be Held in New Edifice—Special Sermon on Universal Peace.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Raleigh, N. C., December 16.—W. A. Fries, a well known contractor and builder of Greensboro, committed suicide early this morning in Hotel Glerch by cutting his jugular vein on the left side of his throat with a dull penknife, the blade used being less than an inch and a half in length. He was in the employ of the State Building Commission as secretary to the commission, and as expert builder, having supervision of the work of the construction of the quarter-million dollar fireproof State building that is now nearing completion.

Mr. Fries leaves a wife and children at Greensboro, and he left the following unsigned note to Mrs. Fries:

"To My Dear Wife:
"I am accused of ugly charges that I cannot entirely disprove. Therefore, good-by, love. I take my own life hoping you collect the life insurance, as it runs for some time. Have one Security Life annuity for \$5,000 and one Mutual Life of New York for \$5,000. Amounts are due on each one, which will reduce this some. Good-by, love. I have never been what I ought to be. Hope you and the children will yet be happy."

This note was unsigned and written on his business letter head, and was open on the dresser, not even torn from the pad. Mr. Fries received a salary of \$200 per month from the State Building Commission.

He returned to the city last night, after an absence of several days, and was shown to his room about midnight.

At 1:30 o'clock he was found in his room dead. His body was lying between the bed and the door, and he had evidently crawled about the room on his hands and knees as his life's blood was ebbing away. He had on only his undershirt and top shirt.

Mr. Fries was about forty-five years old, and was a builder of recognized ability. He had in a coat pocket a letter to Colonel Ashley Horne, as chairman of the State Building Commission, telling him that he had been sick a week or more, and would return to his work in Raleigh at once.

The suicide is attributed to ill health, as much as to anything else. He had been drinking considerably, but suffered from asthma and other troubles that greatly interfered with his sleep at night. The remains will be taken to Greensboro.

The statement was made from the church of the Church of the Good Shepherd on Sunday that the contract has been signed for the completion of the splendid granite church on Hillsboro Street, near Capitol Square, by July 1. It is fourteen years ago that this house of worship was started. It is expected to have it in condition for holding the Easter services in the church, but it will not be completed before July. It will be one of the very handsome churches in the State.

"Now the fighting is done by the men, but we can't tell what the conditions will be in ten years if the women vote and hold office. I don't see but that as a natural sequence they cannot avoid assuming the other duties of citizenship, including going to war," declared Dr. J. McK. Pittenger, rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, on Sunday in a special sermon on "Universal Peace." The sermon was based on the Scripture: "If it be possible, so far as in you lie, live peaceably with all men." He declared that much progress is being made toward universal peace, in spite of the several great wars that have arisen since the world peace movement was started. He mentioned especially the Spanish-American War and the present Balkan states war against the Turks as blood shed for noble purposes that fully met his approval. The failure of the United States Senate to adopt the arbitration treaty sent to the Senate by President Taft in the last session was declared to have been a great disappointment, and the minister expressed the hope that there may yet be a ratification of this or some yet more advantageous treaty looking to the elimination of war.

ASHLAND NEWS NOTES

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Ashland, Va., December 14.—The Ashland Choral Club gave a concert on Friday evening in the college chapel. The program consisted of two parts—an artists' concert, in which the following took part: Messias B. Morgan Shepherd and E. M. Hastings; Messrs. W. T. Tucker, of Richmond; J. O. Sale and Thomas Bruce and Dr. Kohlmeier, of Richmond, with Mrs. Lasher and Miss Tilly as accompanists. This was followed by a dramatic reading by Miss Sarah Wortham Coleman. The second part was the rendition of Gounod's "Gloria," by the Choral Club of forty voices, under the direction of R. S. Sainsbury, of Richmond, with Mrs. W. M. Lasher as accompanist. Mrs. J. C. Blasingame, who sang the solo parts, greatly delighted her audience. Much credit is due the members of the club and Mr. Sainsbury for the faithful work done. Another concert will be given in the early spring. Captain and Mrs. Charles Blakey are spending several days in New York. Miss Nancy White, who has been the guest of Miss Frances Spaulding, has returned to her home in Norfolk. Mrs. Ashby Taylor, of Taylorsville, was the recent guest of Tate Chensy, C. Kelly, of Alexandria, is here for the week-end.

The contestants for the preliminary to the annual triangular debate between Randolph-Macon College, Richmond College and William and Mary College have been chosen. Contrary to the custom, a separate preliminary will be held for the two debates. At present neither the question nor the date of the preliminaries have been decided upon. The debaters elect are as follows: F. E. Pope and W. H. Cardwell, from Franklin Literary Society; E. A. Burgess and G. D. Naylor, from Washington Literary Society, for Richmond College preliminaries, and E. P. Nicholson and E. L. Copley, from Franklin Literary Society, and J. R. Spann and M. P. Harty, from Washington Literary Society, for the William and Mary preliminaries.

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Be sure to attend the inauguration of Woodrow Wilson. He will be the first Southern born President to be inaugurated since James K. Polk. Woodrow Wilson is a son of Virginia, and The Times-Dispatch gives every one in the State an opportunity to attend the inauguration at no cost to themselves.

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The Times-Dispatch

Richmond, Va.

ALL RECORDS BROKEN IN CROP PRODUCTION

Washington, December 16.—Record crops of corn, spring wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, rye, hay and rice were harvested this year, according to the final estimates of the Department of Agriculture, announced today.

The report confirmed preliminary estimates made several months ago, in almost every instance. With a total value of \$2,511,449,000, the eleven principal crops estimated to-day exceed the value of the same crops last year by \$50,531,000. Corn, the greatest crop of all, went almost 200,000,000 bushels beyond the record crop of 1908 and surpassed the 1911 crop by 535,228,000 bushels. The value of the crop was less by \$4,700,000 than that of 1911 and the price on December 3 being 15.1 cents this year against 61.8 cents last year.

The total wheat was 109,029,000 bushels greater than last year; oats 136,079,000 greater; barley 63,584,000 bushels greater.

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Globe Clothing Pay City Taxes

Room 107, City Hall, Richmond, Va., December 11, 1912. THE LAST HALF OF CITY TAXES, REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL, FOR THE YEAR ENDING IN DECEMBER, AND SHOULD BE PAID AT THIS OFFICE. EVERY MALE, twenty-one years of age, and EVERY person keeping house, doing business in the city, is assessed for personal taxes. Those who have not paid any city taxes during the year are urged to call and settle, so as to avoid being posted as delinquents.

FIVE PER CENT will be added to last half if not paid on or before DECEMBER 31. Interest at SIX PER CENT also attaches to all bills as soon as reported delinquent.

Particular attention is called to the above, as under the city ordinance there can be no avoidance of the penalty. GRADING, PAVING AND SEWER CONNECTION BILLS are also due and payable. FIVE PER CENT penalty will be added to all 1912 Grading, Paving and Sewer Connection bills NOT PAID BY JANUARY 31, 1913. WASHINGTON WAR TAXES, etc., must be paid at the office of DEPUTY COLLECTOR, Tenth and Hull Streets.

H. L. HULCE,
City Collector, City of Richmond.

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TORISE \$75,000 FOR Y.M.C.A. HOME

Campaign Will Be Launched in Staunton During Spring. Other News.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Staunton, Va., December 16.—Staunton is to launch in the spring a campaign to build a new Y. M. C. A. home on a fine lot recently purchased at the corner of Frederick Street and Central Avenue. It is planned to raise about \$75,000 for this purpose. The services of a skilled worker in raising funds for such purposes have been secured, and he has already begun to arrange for the campaign. He is in daily consultation with the Y. M. C. A. board, and has been aided also in the past few days by the presence of S. A. Ackley, State Y. M. C. A. secretary.

A fine modern barn belonging to John T. Brand on his farm near Brand's Station, on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, was burned yesterday, with all its contents, consisting of implements, machinery, corn, hay and other farm products. The loss was considerably in excess of the insurance, which amounted to only \$2,500. The fire is thought to have been of incendiary origin.

Preparation for the home-coming celebration of Woodrow Wilson on December 28 are moving along rapidly. If the weather is favorable, there will be an immense crowd. Hotel reservations have been asked for by parties as far away as Charlotte, N. C. The Woodrow Wilson Democratic Club of Baltimore has accepted an invitation to be present, and will come in a special train with 250 members, and will eat and sleep on their train. The city will have 350 distinguished guests, who will be entertained by the city, and arrangements will be made to feed at least 10,000 visitors, and possibly 20,000. The Baltimore and Ohio is arranging to run eleven special trains, and the Chesapeake and Ohio to haul 2,000 people.

STOCK STATISTICS FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Washington, December 16.—Statistics for live stock products for North Carolina are presented in a bulletin soon to be issued by Director Durand, of the Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce and Labor. It was prepared under the supervision of John L. Coulter, expert special agent for agriculture.

The returns for live stock products obtained at the census of 1910. Like those of crops, relate to the activities of the calendar year 1909. It is impossible to give a total representing the annual production of the stock products for the reason that the total value of products from the business of raising domestic animals for use, sale or slaughter cannot be calculated from the census returns.

Dairy Products.
The number of farms in North Carolina reporting dairy cows on April 15, 1910, was 122,635, but only 146,626 reported dairy products in 1909. That there should be this difference is not surprising. Doubtless some farmers who had dairy cows in 1910 had none in 1909, while other farmers neglected to give information for the preceding year, or were unable to do so, perhaps, because the farm was then in other hands. Dairy products in general are somewhat less accurately reported than the principal crops. This is particularly the case as regards the quantity of milk produced. The number of farms which made any report of milk produced during 1909 was 142,711 (somewhat less than the total number of dairy cows on such farms on April 15, 1910, was 262,000. The amount of milk reported was 82,602,000 gallons, assuming that there were the same number of cows in 1909 as in 1910, this would represent an average of 214 gallons per cow.

In considering this average, however, it should be borne in mind that the quantity of milk reported is probably deficient and that the distinction between dairy and other cows is not always strictly observed in the census returns. By reason of the incompleteness of the returns for milk produced, the Census Bureau has made no attempt to determine the total value of dairy products for 1909. For convenience a partial total has been presented comprising the reported value of milk and cream sold as such, and sold on the butter fat basis, and the reported value of butter and cheese made, whether for home consumption or for sale. The total thus obtained for 1909 is \$5,790,000, which may be defined as the total value of dairy products exclusive of milk and cream used on the farm producing them. Only a small proportion of the milk reported as produced by North Carolina farmers in 1909 was sold as such. The butter made on farms in 1909 was valued at \$5,214,000.

Poultry Products.
The total number of fowls on North Carolina farms on April 15, 1910, was 5,924,000. Of the 22,095 farms reporting fowls, 25,290 did not report any eggs produced in 1909, and 25,861 did not report any poultry raised in 1909. The production of eggs actually reported for the year 1909 was 21,829,000 dozens, valued at \$2,316,000. According to the twelfth census report, the production of eggs in 1909 was 17,240,000 dozens, the value being \$1,810,000. The latter figures, however, are somewhat in excess of the actual returns at that census, because they include estimates made to cover those cases where the schedules reported no eggs on hand without reporting the production of eggs. In order to make the returns for 1909 comparable with

those published for 1899, similar estimates have been made, the method of estimate and the justification therefor being substantially the same as in the case of wool. The total production of eggs in 1909, including estimates made on the same basis as for eggs, was 15,328,000 dozens, valued at \$1,497,000.

Animals Sold or Slaughtered.
The total value of domestic animals sold during 1909 was \$7,209,000, and that of animals slaughtered on farms \$11,214,000, making an aggregate of \$18,423,000. This total, however, involves considerable duplication resulting from the resale or slaughter of animals which had been purchased by the farmers during the same year. The value of all the cattle (including calves) sold during 1909 represented about one-half of the total value of animals sold, and the value of mules sold represented about one-sixth of the total.

The census of 1900 called for the receipts from the sale of all domestic animals raised on the farm reporting and the value of those slaughtered during 1899, which amounted, respectively, to \$2,485,000 and \$2,110,000. The item of sales is not closely comparable with that for 1909, when the inquiry covered all sales, whether of animals raised on the farms reporting or elsewhere. It is believed, however, that in many cases the returns for 1899 also included receipts from sales of animals not actually raised on the farms reporting.

Crops.
The total value of crops in North Carolina in 1909 was \$142,830,000, of this amount, \$95 per cent was contributed by crops for which the acreage as well as the value was reported, the remainder consisting of the value of by-products (straw, garden and grass seeds, etc.) derived from the same land as other crops reported, or of orchard fruits, nuts, forest products, and the like. The combined acreage of crops for which acreage was reported was 5,227,037, representing 62.1 per cent of the total improved land in farms (8,412,956 acres). Most of the remaining improved land doubtless consisted of improved pasture, land lying fallow, house and farm yards, and land occupied by orchards and vineyards, the acreage for which was not reported. The general character of North Carolina agriculture is indicated by the fact that about one-third (33.1 per cent) of the total value of crops in 1909 was contributed by cotton, about one-fourth (24.5 per cent) by cereals, about one-tenth (9.7 per cent) by tobacco, and somewhat less than one-

tenth (8.8 per cent) by potatoes and other vegetables. The remainder, representing 19.7 per cent of the total, consisted mostly of forest products, grains and seeds, other than cereals, hay and forage, and fruits and nuts.

The value of crops in 1909 was 138.2 per cent greater than in 1899, this increase being no doubt due in part to higher prices. There was an increase of 2.3 per cent in the total acreage of crops for which acreage was reported, the greatest absolute increase being in the acreage of cotton, grains and seeds, other than cereals, and hay and forage, while the acreage of cereals showed a considerable decrease.

Vegetables.
In 1909 the total acreage of potatoes and other vegetables was 215,110, and their value \$12,385,000. Excluding potatoes and sweet potatoes and yams, the acreage of vegetables was 95,989 and their value \$8,496,000, both acreage and value being decidedly greater than in 1899.

Small Fruits.
Strawberries are by far the most important of the small fruits raised in North Carolina, with blackberries and dewberries ranking next. The value of the strawberry crop in 1909 was \$12,126. The total acreage of small fruits in 1909 was 6,201 and in 1899, 6,432, a decrease of 3 per cent. The production in 1909 was 12,527,000 quarts, as compared with 11,524,000 quarts in 1899, and the value was \$852,000 in 1909, as compared with \$600,000 in 1899.

Orchard Fruits.
The total quantity of orchard fruits produced in 1909 was 6,224,000 bushels, valued at \$2,248,000. Apples contributed about three-fourths of this quantity; peaches and nectarines most of the remainder. The production of grapes in 1909 amounted to 15,117,000 pounds, valued at \$2,248,000. In 1899 it was 12,248,000 pounds, valued at \$2,248,000. The production of tropical fruits, mostly figs, was valued at \$22,771.

The production of all orchard fruits together in 1909 was 22.4 per cent more in quantity than that in 1899, and the production of grapes also increased. The value of orchard fruits increased from \$2,248,000 in 1899 to \$2,248,000 in 1909, and that of grapes from \$197,000 in 1899 to \$238,000 in 1909. It should be noted that the values for 1899 include the value of more advanced products derived from orchard fruits or grapes, such as cider, vinegar, dried fruits and the like, and may therefore involve some duplication, while the values shown for 1909 relate only to the products in their original condition.

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